

00437

1962/10/08



1962 OCT 8 18 21

ASSISTANT SECRETARY OF DEFENSE
OFF SECY OF DEFENSE

WASHINGTON 25, D.C.

Re. Gilpatric

8 October 1962

INTERNATIONAL SECURITY AFFAIRS

Refer to 1-26089/62

MEMORANDUM FOR MR. BILPATRIC

SUBJECT: Release of Cuban Prisoners

At a special meeting at State Saturday afternoon, John McCone advised the status of the Donovan mission to Havana. Following the meeting, contact was made with the President who approved the general conclusions. One of these conclusions was that little or no attempt at secrecy would be useful for more than a short time and that admission of the U. S. Government backing of the exchange would be made (without details) upon press inquiry.

The quid pro quo is \$50 million in drugs and medicines (\$20 million cost to Government) plus approximately \$7 million collected by the Prisoners' Committee, in cash, to be transferred to the Royal Bank of Canada.

Donovan, after flying to Miami yesterday for some last minute instructions from Mr. McCone, was to return to Havana and fly out with the last group of prisoners. A contract with Pan American had already been effected by CIA to bring the prisoners out commencing today or tomorrow if all goes well.

I am available to brief you on further details of the meeting if you wish.

Frank K. Sleam
Frank K. Sleam
Deputy Assistant Secretary

QASD(PA) DFOISR

DECLASSIFIED BY AUTHORITY OF
POSSIBLY SA

31 Oct 90

89-F01-2095

DATE

CASE #

SEC DEF CONT NO.

6458

TOP SECRET

10/10/71